

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

This edition features two articles on green rating systems for things other than buildings. The first, the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™), addresses land on which a project is constructed. As you would expect, use of native plants, limiting irrigation, and other credits related to landscaping and plant use are included. But SITES also includes credits related to storm water management, heat island effect, use of regional materials and materials with recycled content, as well as sustainable manufacturing practices and product transparency. The second system, Envision, focuses on larger infrastructure projects. Use of masonry products in permeable pavements, masonry with high solar reflectance (SR) values, and masonry products with sustainable attributes (i.e. recycled content or sustainable manufacturing practices) are just some of the many ways masonry can contribute toward credits in these non-building rating systems.

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NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

With the Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), the company that certifies LEED projects, acquiring the SITES rating system, look for SITES use to expand. ~Tina

GBCI Launches SITES, its Newly Acquired Rating System for Sustainable Landscapes

MASONRY DESIGN MAGAZINE

Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) launched its newly acquired SITES rating system, the most comprehensive program and toolkit for developing sustainable landscapes. SITES addresses global concerns such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and resource depletion through sustainable landscape design and management. SITES was developed through a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin, and the United

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States Botanic Garden. The rating system can be applied to development projects located on sites with or without buildings - ranging from national parks to corporate campuses, streetscapes and homes, and much more. Several of the recommended strategies can be met using masonry products. [Read more.](#)

Envision is a "Powerful" Tool in Infrastructure Projects

ENGINEERING NEWS RECORD

The Envision tool helps companies and governments reduce the effects of large infrastructure projects. The sustainability rating system is similar to LEED but looks at resource use, operational resilience, ecosystem restoration, life-cycle costs and return on investment -- not just the building. The Interstate 4 Ultimate project in Florida and a sewer project in Madison, Wis., have both used the tool successfully. "Envision is a powerful accountability and quality assurance tool," said Michael Mucha, chief engineer and district director in Madison, according to [this article.](#)

HUD Adopts 2009 IECC (Not the 2012 or 2015 version)

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have determined, effective June 6, 2015, that adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code for single family homes and the 2007 edition of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 for multifamily buildings will not negatively affect the affordability and availability of HUD and USDA assisted housing. This new minimum standard for energy efficiency in housing is widely seen as a benchmark driving green building and impacting significantly more units than LEED. Read more [here.](#)

Top and Bottom States for LEED

ECO-BUILDING PULSE

Which states and sectors really go for gold (and platinum)? This heatmap uses real-time market reports from the USGBC to identify the most popular green building certifications by level achieved in each state, and the top five states for the five most commonly LEED-certified building types. [Read more.](#)

Tackling the DC Green Building Code

STEVEN WINTER ASSOCIATES

With the District's adoption of the innovative Green Construction Code in 2013, there has been a significant learning curve for those looking to build in Washington, DC. To support building developers and the general public in successfully designing and building to the new green and energy code requirements, various regulatory bodies have worked to create innovative tools, trainings, and educational resources. To learn more, [click here.](#)

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

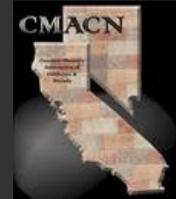
Building Homes to Recover From Fire

HUFFINGTON POST

The aftermath of a home fire can make those affected feel helpless. As people run to desperately make sure that the personal safety of everyone has been accounted for, they find themselves looking on as years of memories, and personal artifacts turn to ash. Family heirlooms, baby photos, these are items that cannot be replaced. Personal records necessary to initiate claims and continue livelihoods may also be lost. And it could be any of us facing this situation. In 2013, the U.S. fire loss clock reported a fire department responded to a fire every 25 seconds, according to the National Fire Protection Association. It is usually in the

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Platinum Level



Concrete Masonry Association
of California & Nevada





Western
States Clay
Products
Association

Gold Level



Masonry
Institute of
America



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aftermath that the questions start to collect. Why did this happen, how could we have prepared for this, and could this have been avoided? [Read more.](#)

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Call for Papers: Symposium on Advances in Hygrothermal Performance of Building Envelopes

ASTM.ORG

Papers are invited for a Symposium on Advances in Hygrothermal Performance of Building Envelopes: Materials, Systems and Simulations to be held October 26-27, 2016, sponsored by ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation. This symposium will provide a forum for discussion of progress in laboratory testing, field monitoring and validation of the hygrothermal properties of thermal insulations and related building materials. Modeling and simulations of heat-air-moisture transport and the interactions between heat and mass transfer in insulations will be of special interest. For more information visit: <http://www.astm.org/C16CFP1016>. The deadline for submission of abstracts is July 10, 2015.

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Silver Level



Bronze Level

